

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2455

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3017

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SF WA

SUBJECT: SECOND TRIPARTITE DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 186709

1. APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY COMMENT ON PROPOSED AIDE
MEMOIRE AND TALKING POINTS. OVERALL THRUST SEEMS
EXCELLENT. BELIEVE FOLLOWING COMMENT MAY BE WORTH
CONSIDERATION, HOWEVER. WE HAVE COORDINATED OUR VIEWS
INFORMALLY WITH BRITISH EMBASSY (BUT NOT FRENCH).

2. MAJOR POINT CONCERNS POSSIBLE VAGUENESS (PERHAPS INTENDED)
IN TERM "ELECTORAL PROCESS" AS USED IN FOURTH AND FIFTH PARAS
OF AIDE MEMOIRE (PARAS 7 AND 8 OF REFTEL). THIS PRESUMABLY
MEANS ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SOME FORM OF CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY AND EXCLUDES ANY IDEA OF PLEBESCITE OR REFERENDUM,
YET CONCEPT OF "SINGLE" PROCESS MAY NOT NECESSARILY GUARANTEE
EACH INDIVIDUAL A VOTE. ASSUMING THAT TRIPARTITE INTENTION
IS TO AVOID TOO SPECIFIC A PRESCRIPTION WHILE STILL
AFFIRMING THAT EACH PERSON SHOULD HAVE EQUAL VOTE, WE SUGGEST
REWORDING OF PART AFTER LAST COMMA IN PARA 7 OF REFTEL TO READ,
"THROUGH WHICH ALL INHABITANTS OF THE TERRITORY CAN MAKE
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KNOWN FREELY AND CLEARLY THEIR DESIRES IN THE DETERMINATION

OF THE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY."
BRITISH HERE WOULD ENDORSE ADDITION.

3. SINCE PROPOSED ADDITION ADDS CLAUSES TO PARAGRAPH THAT
IS ALREADY GRAMMATICALLY COMPLICATED, DEPT MIGHT WISH CONSIDER
FORMULATION THAT IS SOMEWHAT MORE DIRECT BUT WOULD MAKE
CLEARER WHAT KIND OF SAG APPROACH WOULD BE MOST ACCEPTABLE.

E.G., ALL OF PARA 7 REFTEL MIGHT BE AMENDED TO READ:

"THE THREE GOVERNMENTS URGE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF ETHNIC GROUPS WHICH ARE NOW BEING PREPARED ARE REGARDED
AS ADVISORY RATHER THAN DEFINITIVE AND THAT AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE A SINGLE ELECTORAL PROCESS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN
THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE SO THAT EVERY INHABITANT WILL HAVE
A VOTE IN DETERMINING THE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL
FUTURE OF THE TERRITORY."

4. TALING POINTS ARE FINE. HOWEVER, BELIEVE WE SHOULD
ALSO BE AUTHORIZED TELL FOREIGN MINISTER, WHETHER HE ASKS
OR NOT, HOW WE INTEND HANDLE PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT DEMARCHE,
AND INFORM HIM OF OUR INTENTION TO BRIEF UNSYG.

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